

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

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TO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 116319

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: STATUS OF AID AND PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS IN
AFGHANISTAN

THE FOLLOWING, DERIVED FROM A BRIEFING MEMORANDUM, PROVIDES
OUR CURRENT THINKING ON THE STATUS OF AID AND PEACE CORPS
PROGRAMS:

AID

WE HAVE HAD AN ACTIVE AID PROGRAM IN AFGHANISTAN, WITH A
BUDGET OF APPROXIMATELY \$20 MILLION IN FY 78 AND A STAFF OF
58 AT OUR MISSION IN KABUL. THIS FIGURE INCLUDES DIRECT
HIRE, PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND CONTRACT PERSONNEL. UNTIL
THE DUST SETTLES AND THE INTENTIONS OF THE NEW REGIME BECOME
CLEARER, WE INTEND TO KEEP OUR MISSION IN PLACE AND CON-
TINUE OUR ONGOING PROGRAMS IN A LOW-KEY MANNER TO THE EX-
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TENT THE SITUATION PERMITS. AID WILL NOT OBLIGATE NEW FUNDS
AT THIS TIME, BUT AID WILL DISBURSE MONEY IN THE PIPELINE
UNDER OLD AGREEMENTS FOR ONGOING PROJECTS. AS OF MARCH 31,
1978, \$21 MILLION WAS IN THE PIPELINE.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS ALREADY OBLI-
GATED, THE MISSION NORMALLY WITHOUT REFERENCE TO WASHINGTON

SIGNS "SUB-AGREEMENTS" OR LETTERS OF VARIOUS KINDS. WE ARE REQUESTING THE EMBASSY TO ADVISE US OF THE KINDS OF SUB-AGREEMENTS WHICH MAY BE COMING UP FOR SIGNATURE. AID WOULD BE INCLINED TO LEAVE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT TO SIGN SUB-AGREEMENTS TO ITS MISSION, GIVING GUIDANCE TO THEM THAT THEY SHOULD ACT PRINCIPALLY ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE GOA AND AVOID PRE-EMPTING THE QUESTION OF OUR LONGER TERM AID RELATIONSHIP. AID PERSONNEL SCHEDULED TO LEAVE AFGHANISTAN ANYWAY, WHO WISH TO LEAVE QUICKLY, WILL BE PROVIDED TRAVEL ORDERS. ELEVEN PERSONS, WHOSE JOBS WERE ABOLISHED IN A RETRENCHMENT LAST FALL OR WHO ARE DUE HOME LEAVE HAVE BEEN GIVEN TRAVEL ORDERS. APART FROM THIS, WE DO NOT PLAN TO SCALE DOWN THE MISSION NOW SINCE SUCH ACTION MIGHT BE VIEWED AS A POLITICAL SIGNAL BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

YOU SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, OF SECTION 620(B) AND (F) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED. PURSUANT TO SECTION 620(B), ASSISTANCE CANNOT BE FURNISHED TO ANY COUNTRY DOMINATED OR CONTROLLED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. THE AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE WHETHER A COUNTRY FALLS WITHIN THE RESTRICTION OF 620(B) HAS BEEN DELEGATED FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 101 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 10973. UNDER SECTION 620(F), ASSISTANCE CANNOT BE FURNISHED TO ANY

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COMMUNIST COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT MAY WAIVE THIS RESTRICTION IF HE FINDS AND PROMPTLY REPORTS TO CONGRESS THAT: (1) SUCH ASSISTANCE IS VITAL TO THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES; (2) THE RECIPIENT COUNTRY IS NOT CONTROLLED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY; AND (3) SUCH ASSISTANCE WILL FURTHER PROMOTE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE RECIPIENT COUNTRY FROM INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM. THE AUTHORITY TO WAIVE THIS RESTRICTION AFTER THE STATUTORY FINDING AND CONGRESSIONAL REPORT HAVE BEEN MADE, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN RESERVED BY THE PRESIDENT IN SECTION 401 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 10973. IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A DETERMINATION ON THE APPLICABILITY OF SECTION 620 (B) OR (F), BUT AS SOON AS THE SITUATION CLARIFIES, WE WILL BE SENDING YOU AND THE SECRETARY OUR RECOMMENDATIONS.

PEACE CORPS

WE NOW HAVE ABOUT 95 VOLUNTEERS IN KABUL. TEN OF THESE VOLUNTEERS HAVE ASKED TO LEAVE EARLY AND ARE BEING PERMITTED TO DO SO AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS WHO WISH EARLY DEPARTURES WILL BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE. WE ARE NOT ENCOURAGING VOLUNTEERS TO LEAVE, BUT WILL NOT BE SENDING IN ANY NEW

VOLUNTEERS UNTIL WE HAVE ASSESSED WHETHER OR NOT IT IS

POSSIBLE AND IN OUR BEST INTERESTS TO CONTINUE PEACE CORPS
PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN. THERE ARE NO LEGISLATIVE BARS
TO PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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